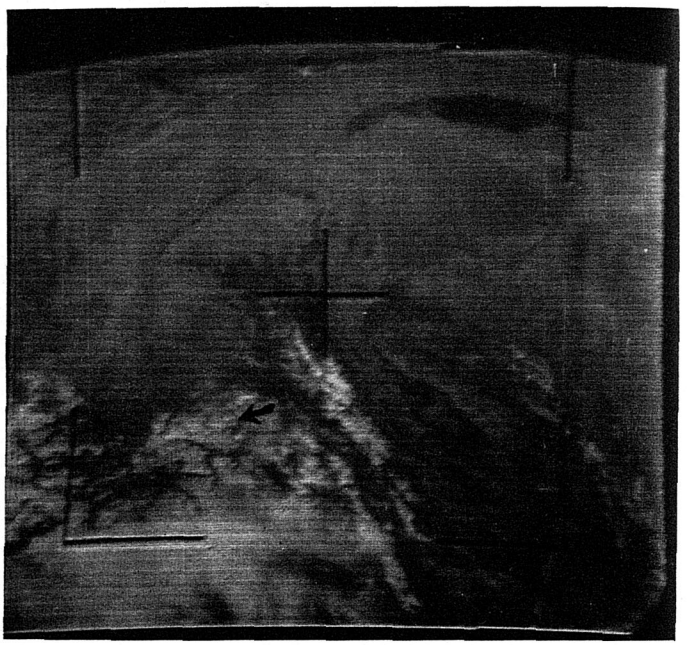
PICTURE OF THE MONTH



The pictures shown here illustrate how satellite photographs, even of poor resolution, might be used for snow survey in remote, data sparse, regions. The white areas in the foreground are a mixture of snow and clouds, but the dendritic pattern that is especially clear near the arrow is the typical form of snow on rugged terrain that can be distinguished from cloud cover. The dark areas near the picture centers are caused by the rugged terrain at the western end of the Tyan Shan (Tien Shan) Range, north of the Himalayan Mountains, which might be expected to be snow covered, but at a glance the large snow-free areas can be seen contrasted with the snow. Examination of similar pictures on succeeding days would enable one to determine how much has changed (presumably the cloud cover) and how much has remained constant (possibly snow cover).

These pictures were taken 30 seconds apart about 0500 GMT, September 26, 1962 by TIROS VI when it was about 150 miles east of Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, USSR, viewing westward. In the background is the Aral Sea and nearly on the horizon the darker streak is the Caspian Sea. The desert areas between the camera and the Aral and between the Caspian and the Aral Seas show up as light-colored terrain (lack of vegetation) and are emphasized by cloudless skies.